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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/686,967	10/16/2003	Channing K. Barringer	03292.101810	8084
66569	7590	10/02/2007	EXAMINER	
FITZPATRICK CELLA (AMEX) 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			HALE, ADAM G	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3609		
		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
		10/02/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/686,967	BARRINGER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Adam G. Hale	3609

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 September 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 16 October 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant responded to the requirement for election restriction on September 7, 2007 and elected Group I, claims 1-5. Claims 6 – 14 were cancelled by applicant, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein, and are withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. The claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 1 is directed non-statutory subject matter is therefore rejected; claims 2 – 5 depend from Claim 1 and are therefore rejected as well. In this case, the system provides no structure and is not seen to be a true system claim and is therefore not a valid statutory class.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by "Agent Offers One-Stop TV Production", Bill Carter, March 11, 2002, New York Times, Late Edition (hereinafter referred to as "Carter").

6. **With respect to claim 1,** Carter discloses an entertainment sponsorship marketing system (product placement in a reality television show and shows that have multiple sources of financing, para 2 page 3)

A business operation having an owner, said business operation featured on a show having a storyline related to said business operation, wherein said business operation comprises independent commerce value distinct from said show (reality television show about creation and daily working of a real restaurant, para 8 page 2)

A product incorporated into said storyline such that a nexus exists between said business operation and said product, said product configured to facilitate substantial resolution of certain issues related to said business operation (interpreted to be disclosed as Carter teaches that advertisers will brought into the reality television series in capacities in addition to product placement, where the products are various food products, para 2 page 3. In a reality television show about a restaurant, food products would be well recognized to be configured to facilitate substantial resolution of certain issues related to said business operation)

Said storyline configured to demonstrate said product in context of said business operation (products integrated into the reality television series, para 2 page 3).

7. **With respect to claim 5,** Carter discloses wherein said show is a reality television show (reality television series about the creation and daily working of a real restaurant, para 8 page 2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

10. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was

not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

11. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carter in view of "Two Thumbs Up for Card Placement", Author Unknown, Credit Card Management, May 1993, (hereinafter referred to as "Card Placement").

12. **With respect to claim 3**, Carter does not disclose wherein said product includes financial assistance products. Card Placement teaches the placement of a VISA card – interpreted to be a financial assistance product – into the story line of a production where the card is integral to the storyline, para 6 page 2. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate a financial assistance product as disclosed by Card Placement into a reality television show about a business as disclosed in Carter in order to provide a more efficient and valuable method of advertising a financial assistance product.

13. **With respect to claim 4**, Carter does not disclose wherein said product includes at least one of a transaction card, a financial service and a loan service. Card Placement teaches the placement of a VISA card – interpreted to be a financial service, transaction card, and a loan service – into the story line of a production where the card is integral to the storyline, para 6 page 2. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate a product as disclosed by Card Placement into a reality television show about a business

as disclosed in Carter in order to provide a more efficient and valuable method of advertising a transaction card, a financial service and a loan service product.

14. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carter in view of Open Small Business Network (hereinafter referred to as "Open").

15. **With respect to claim 2,** Carter does not disclose wherein said product includes a network for facilitating communication between owners of similar business operations. Open teaches a network for facilitating communication between owners of similar business operations (see (i)). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate a product as disclosed by Open into a reality television show about a business as disclosed in Carter in order to provide a more efficient and valuable method of advertising a product such as Open, as a reality television show concerning the starting of a business in Carter would provide an ideal and efficient vehicle to promote a product such as Open and in addition, Carter teaches the integration of products into a reality television show about a business.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Adam G. Hale whose telephone number is 571-270-3509. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 7:30 - 6:00 Eastern.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrence Till can be reached on 571-272-1280. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


AGH
9/26/07


Terrence R. Till
Supervisory Patent Examiner